(b) whether the CRPF has a big centre at Neemach;

(c) whether airport facility is occasionally available at Neemach and generally CRPF, Government and other planes land over there; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The airstrip at Neemach is controlled by the Indian Air Force and no scheduled air services are being operated to this airport.

(d) Airports Authority of India has no plans for developing passenger facilities at the airport.

[English]

Action Against Officers

1892. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2278 dated March 10, 1997 and state :

(a) the details of officers who have been transferred from their places of posting before initiating action;

(b) the details of action taken against each;

(c) whether action has been initiated/taken against some more officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the charges levelled against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has informed that one officer was transferred from his place of posting before initiating action under CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 as applicable to K.V.S. Employees. Disciplinary Action has been initiated against the concerned officer under the rules.

(c) and (d) Disciplinary action has been initiated against three more officers after consultation with Central Vigilance Commission for various acts of misconduct relating to irregularities in appointments and violation of CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 as applicable to K.V.S. Employees.

Sale of Arms by Blacklisted Firm through Intermediary

1893. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Swedish arms manufacturer 'Bofors', which is blacklisted in India after a 1986 bribery case, is defying the ban by selling through an intermediary as reported in the Hindustan Times dated July 5, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether some components were procured by Ordnance Factory Board from some firm of Sweden; and

(d) if so, the particulars of the firm and other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) There is an embargo on M/s Bofors till they yield the names and full details of the recipients of the commission in the Supply Contract for the FH 77B Gun System and ammunition and return the amount. The embargo continues.

2. Components worth approximately Rs. 10.16 crores were contracted by the Ordnance Factory Board during the period 1993-94 to 1996-97 from M/s Mipro AB of Sweden for the manufacture of weapon and ammunition. It had been confirmed by the Indian Embassy in Sweden that M/s MIPRO AB did not have any links with M/s Bofors.

Free Tickets to companions of Member of AI

1894. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has offered free tickets to companions of members of Air India's elite club-the Maharajah;

(b) if so, the details of the beneficiaries who has taken advantage of the scheme;

(c) whether an agreement (informal or formal) has been reached between all the major carriers to stop discounting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the justification of continuing the free air tickets to companion's scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes Sir. Air India offered companion-free tickets to members of the Maharajah Club, subject to their purchasing a full fare ticket to any destination on Air India's network in any class.

(b) During the period from May 12 to June 30, 1997, 129 beneficiaries have taken advantage of the scheme.

(c) and (d) No formal or informal agreement has been reached between the major carriers to stop discounting totally. However, all the airlines feel the need for improvement in yields and reduction in discounting levels.

(e) The companion-free schemes are basically Sales Promotion Schemes and are operative for short periods.